

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-6, 10, 13-15, 27, 41, 65, and 66 as follows.

Please add new Claim 67 as follows.

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1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:  
~~storage means for storing data, and~~  
~~setting means for setting a timing for applying an electronic watermark to the data~~  
~~when storing the data in said storage means~~ discrimination means for discriminating, when  
registering data, timing to apply electronic watermark data, among processes regarding the data;  
and  
registration means for registering the data so that the electronic watermark is  
applied to the data at the timing discriminated by said discrimination means.

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2. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim  
1,  
wherein said ~~setting means is capable of setting at least a timing for transmitting~~  
~~said data stored in said storage means, and a timing for storing said data in said storage means~~  
discrimination means discriminates timing of registering the data or timing after registering the  
data.

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said ~~setting means is capable of setting at least a timing for outputting said data stored~~

~~in said storage means, and a timing for storing said data in said storage means discrimination  
means discriminates one of timing of registering the data, timing of sending the registered data,  
or timing of printing the registered data.~~

4. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim  
3, ~~wherein said data is outputted after an~~ 1, further comprising output means for outputting the  
data after the electronic watermark has been removed from for said data.

5. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim  
4 1, further comprising:

~~display means for providing a display of said data, wherein said display means~~  
~~displays said data to which an electronic watermark is applied~~ print means for printing the data  
after the electronic watermark has been removed from the data, and  
display means for displaying data which the electronic watermark is applied to.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim  
3, wherein said ~~data is outputted by using an output device that is capable of communicating with~~  
~~said information processing apparatus~~ timing of printing the data is for sending the data to a  
printer.

7. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to  
claim 6, wherein the electronic watermark is removed from said data by said output device.

8. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, when the output of said data is completed, said output device deletes data received from said information processing apparatus.

9. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, during the data output process, said output device does not halt said data output process even upon receiving of a halting instruction.

6/ 10. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~setting means is capable of designating one of a plurality of electronic watermarking methods~~ discrimination means further discriminates a method of applying an electronic watermarking method among plurality of electronic watermarking methods.

11. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of electronic watermarking methods include at the least a first method for employing an electronic watermark as visible information, and a second method for employing an electronic watermark as invisible information.

12. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said plurality of electronic watermarking methods include at the least a third method for employing an electronic watermark as removable information, and a fourth method for employing an electronic watermark as unremovable information.

13. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~setting means is capable of designating watermark information that is to be applied to said data by said electronic watermarking means, and~~

~~wherein said electronic watermarking means applies, to said data, said watermark information designated by said setting means~~ discrimination means further discriminates electronic watermark information to be applied to the data.

14. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 13, ~~further comprising: management means for managing said watermark information designated by said setting means,~~

~~wherein said electronic watermarking means is capable of employing a plurality of electronic watermarking methods, and~~

~~wherein said management means employs a common form to manage said watermark information, regardless of whether said watermark information has a different form 1,~~ further comprising management means for managing the timing discriminated by said discrimination means for each registered data.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing system having a plurality of information processing devices, comprising:

~~storage means for storing data, and~~

~~setting means for setting a timing for applying an electronic watermark to the data when storing the data in said storage means~~ discrimination means for discriminating, when

registering data in a predetermined information processing device, timing to apply electronic watermark data, among processes regarding the data; and

registration means for registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data at the timing discriminated by said discrimination means.

16. - 26. (Canceled)

61 507 27. (Currently Amended) A control method for an information processing apparatus comprising:

a registration step of registering data in a memory; and

a setting step of setting a timing for applying an electronic watermark to the data when registering the data in said registration step a discrimination step of discriminating, when registering data, timing to apply electronic watermark data, among processes regarding the data; and

a registration step of registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data at the timing discriminated in said discrimination step.

28. - 40. (Canceled)

507 41. (Currently Amended) A control method for a system having a plurality of information processing devices, said control method comprising:

a registration step of registering data in a memory; and

~~a setting step of setting a timing for applying an electronic watermark to the data when registering the data in said registration step~~ a discrimination step of discriminating, when registering data in a predetermined information processing device, timing to apply electronic watermark data, among processes regarding the data; and

a registration step of registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data at the timing discriminated in said discrimination step.

42. - 64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

~~storage means for storing data;~~

~~electronic watermarking means for applying an electronic watermark to said data;~~

~~communication means for transmitting said data; and~~

~~setting means for designating a timing for applying an electronic watermark to said data among a plurality of timings until the data is transmitted by said communication means~~

discrimination means for discriminating, when registering data, a timing process to apply electronic watermark data among timing of registering the data and timing of sending the registered data; and

registration means for registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data before registering the data or upon sending the data in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination means.

66. (Currently Amended) A system having a plurality of information processing devices, comprising:

~~storage means for storing data;~~

~~electronic watermarking means for applying an electronic watermark to said data;~~

~~communication means for transmitting said data; and~~

~~setting means for designating a timing for applying an electronic watermark to said data among a plurality of timings until the data is transmitted by said communication means~~

discrimination means for discriminating, when registering data in a predetermined information processing device, a timing process to apply electronic watermark data among timing of registering the data and timing of sending the registered data; and

registration means for registering the data so that the electronic watermark is applied to the data before registering the data or upon sending the data in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination means.

506 C1 67. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:

registration means for executing a process of registering data; and

instruction means for instructing timing of applying an electronic watermark to the data among processes regarding the data.